

Case Study

Liverpool Guild of Students

What was your interfaith project?

An Interfaith Week including workshops exploring different faiths, a Walk of Faith and an interfaith quiz.

- Sunday 17th November- Trip to the Gudwara with our Sikh Society
- Monday 18th November- Exploring Hinduism with NHSF Liverpool
- Tuesday 19th November- Exploring Judaism with our Jewish Society
- **Wednesday 20th November** - Faith Societies came together at the Students' Union and shared some ideas about their faith. Students and staff from Faith Express then went on 'A Walk of Faith' visiting the Church, Synagogue and the nearby Mosque. We reconvened at the Students' Union to share food and enjoy an Interfaith quiz with questions organized by the different societies.
- Thursday 21st November- Exploring Islam with our Islamic Society

How did you ensure students were involved in the development of your project?

We set up an Interfaith Steering Group consisting of students from our faith societies. Students were met with on two occasions prior to the week; once to choose the programme of events and once to finalise planning. In both these instances students were facilitated to lead the discussion and ideas. We worked with the Islamic Society, Sikh Society, Hindu Society (NHSF), Jewish Society, Christian Union and Catholic Society.

What impact did this project have on students you work with and within your students' union or college?

- How did it deliver one of the following outcomes:
 - Encourage engagement between faith societies
 - Increase understanding amongst students about different religions and beliefs
 - Increase dialogue and collaborative action
- Were there any other outcomes from the project?

Firstly, the week increased awareness of interfaith cohesion as a concept within our organisation. We found that holding meetings with the societies encouraged them to engage with each other and plan times to consider their faiths together.

Understanding was certainly increased between the faith societies in terms of how their beliefs overlap and differ. Some of our other students groups, especially LGBT+ and the Humanist Society, had previously experienced conflict with our faith societies and this was a time for them to open dialogue and develop a better understanding of their fellow students.

The Explore Islam event, in particular, gained approximately 50 attendees and allowed students to understand a variety of issues, especially those surrounding Islamophobia and behaviour on campus. As a direct result of this discussion, our Anglican Chaplain is working with our Christian societies to consider how they can work with Muslim students to make positive changes.

Following Interfaith Week our Sikh Society are keen to run an interfaith charity event next term.

What lessons did you learn in delivering the project that might be useful to other students' unions?

In terms of communication, we found that getting all the societies together as a steering group and identifying clear action points was the best way of ensuring good outcomes. For next year we would probably do this even more as email was much less effective.

We certainly learnt that there is interest from students in collaborating on interfaith projects. We found it really good to start off with relatively small events that were attended by the faith societies in the main, as it opened the communication channels between all those societies. Next year, we would make it one of our goals to increase attendance from students who are not involved in faith societies but have an interest, so that we increase the reach of the activity across the student body.

Do you have any feedback from participants at your event?

Participants were extremely positive at the events and we have seen an increased level of engagement with our faith societies, especially ISoc and JSoc, following the event. We are in the process of planning another meeting in the new term to review and keep the conversation open.

Our social media feedback was positive:



Matthew Smyth @MatthewJSmyth

21 Nov

Wonderfully positive discuss on Islam tonight in @lgos as part of #IFWeek with @LivISOC Glad I came.

Retweeted by LivISOC

Expand

← Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More



Liverpool LGBT Plus @LGoSLGBTplus

21 Nov

Excited and proud to be at the @LIVISOC Exploring Islam event for Interfaith Week :-)

Retweeted by LIVISOC

Collapse

← Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ... More

2
RETWEETS



7:43 PM - 21 Nov 13 - Details

Reply to @LGoSLGBTplus @LIVISOC



LIVISOC @LIVISOC

21 Nov

@LGoSLGBTplus and we are pleased to welcome you! We hope you enjoy tonight. Let us know your thoughts :-)

Expand

← Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ... More

We also received positive feedback from the national Interfaith Week team, who featured our programme on their website.

Photo/Video evidence of your event:

ISoc's Explore Islam workshop – students were encouraged to try a hijab on.



FREE ENTRY

DISCOVER ISLAM INTERFAITH WEEK

COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING TO LEARN ABOUT THE FASTEST GROWING RELIGION WITH 1.2 BILLION FOLLOWERS

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |
| Abraham's Children | The Hijab | Islamophobia/Muslims in the Media |
|  |  |  |
| Call to ISLAM | Free Food and Drinks | Meet and Greet Other Muslims |

4 x 10 minute presentations, each followed by Question and Answer session.
 For More Info Visit livisoc.org
 or contact Ayman @ 07742 480 121 or hlaalafa@student.liverpool.ac.uk
 6:30pm Thurs 21st Nov 2013
 @ Abercromby Square, Dining Room 1st Floor, L7 7BD